

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 /083 W

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R 041630Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7624

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, OGEN, TS

SUBJ: VC-10 HIJACKING : REVISED TEXT OF BOURGUIBA

STATEMENTS ON DISPOSITION OF HIJACKERS

REF: TUNIS 7447, 7415, BEIRUT 14421

2. DECMEBER 4 TUNIS PRESS PRINTED FULL TEXT OF BOURGUIBA
INTERVIEW GIVEN TO AL-ANWAR CORRESPONDENT. BECAUSE THIS
TEXT CONTAINED FULLER VERSION OF REMARKS ON DISPOSITION OF
HIJACKERS THAN THAT PORTION PUBLISHED HERE ON DECEMBER 3
AND TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH IN TUNIS 7447, WE SUBMIT IT IN
TOTO: QUOTE I THINK THAT THIS IS THE BEST SOLUTION. THESE
PALESTINIANS HAVE GIVEN THEIR CONFIDENCE TO TUNISIA. THEY
LEARNED THAT NO ARAB COUNTRY WAS DISPOSED TO RECEIVE THEM.

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THE PLO DID NOT SHIELD THEM (NE LES A PAS COUVERTS). THE

SAME WITH IRAQ. REMAINING IN TUNISIA IS THE BEST SOLUTION FOR THEM. WE PROMISED THEM NOT TO DELIVER THEM TO THE PLO WITHOUT THEIR AGREEMENT UNLESS THEY ACCEPT SOME DAY TO REJOIN THIS ORGANIZATION AND TO ACCEPT ITS DISCIPLINE. WE WILL NOT DELIVER THEM TO THE PLO AGAINST THEIR WILL. DOING THAT WOULD OPEN A DOOR THAT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CLOSE LATER. WE ALSO PROMISED THEM NOT TO HAVE THEM UNDERGO JUDGMENT. THEY BELIEVED OUR WORD AND WE MUST BE FAITHFUL TO OUR PROMISES. WE FACE A HUMAN PROBLEM AND NOT AN ACT THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO PUNISH. THESE PALESTINIANS WILL REMAIN IN TUNIS UNTIL CIRCUMSTANCES EVOLVE (EVOLUE) OR THAT THEY RETURN TO THE RANKS AND ACCEPT THE DISCIPLINE OF THE PLO END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT: THIS LATEST TEXT CONTAINS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT LANGUAGE IN LAST SENTENCE FROM EARLIER TEXT. IN PLACE OF THE SENTENCE AT END THAT READ QUOTE THEY WILL STAY IN TUNIS UNTIL THE SITUATION CHANGES (CHANGE) OR THEY RETURN TO REASON AND SUBMIT THEMSELVES TO DISCIPLINE END QUOTE, THE DECEMBER 4 VERSION SAYS QUOTE THESE PALESTINIANS WILL REMAIN IN TUNIS UNTIL CIRCUMSTANCES EVOLVE (EVOLUE) OR THAT THEY RETURN TO THE RANKS AND ACCEPT THE DISCIPLINE OF THE PLO END QUOTE. SINCE THESE TEXTS ARE TRANSLATIONS FROM ARABIC ORIGINAL (WHICH WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT SEEN) VARIATIONS IN TRANSLATIONS ARE NOT RPT NOT SURPRISING. WHAT IS NOTEWORTHY IS CLARIFICATION IN LATEST TRANSLATION THAT WHEN BOURGUIBA TALKED ABOUT NECESSITY THAT TERRORISTS SUBMIT TO DISCIPLINE HE MEANT THE DISCIPLINE OF THE PLO.
SEELYE

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